

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-06 HA-05 L-03 CA-01 H-02
PPTE-00 EA-12 /036 W
-----008809 210659Z /10
R 210338Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7828
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : CASC (SO, PEARL)
SUBJECT : W/W - STATUS REPORT PEARL SO

REF; STATE 144438

1. PEARL SO BEGAN TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO TREATMENT AFTER 5 DAYS AT DR. WONG'S CLINIC. SHE BECAME REASONABLY RATIONAL BUT UNABLE TO REMEMBER WHAT TRANSPIRED FROM THE TIME OF HER BREAKDOWN. SHE WAS IN FACT BETTER BUT, ACCORDING TO DR. WONG, STILL IN NEED OF EXTENSIVE TREATMENT.
2. DUE TO MOUNTING EXPENSES AT THE PRIVATE CLINIC (WHICH MS. SO INDICATED SHE WAS RELUCTANT TO PAY) EMBASSY MADE ARRANGEMENT FOR HER TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FACILITY. BASED ON DR. WONG'S RECOMMENDATION THAT MS. SO BE ADMITTED TO THE TAIPEI PSYCHIATRIC CENTER FOR EVALUATION, THE LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES ISSUED A DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING THE CITY HOSPITAL TO EXAMINE MS. SO AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TAIPEI CITY GOVERNMENT. ON 5/30/78 MS. SO WAS ESCORTED TO THE TAIPEI CITY PSYCHIATRIC CENTER BY DR. WONG, A TAIPEI POLICE CAPTAIN AND AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER.

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3. MS. SO BECAME VERY DISTURBED AT THE SIGHT OF THE DOCTORS AT THE CITY HOSPITAL. SHE ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE BUT WAS RESTRAINED BY DR. WONG. AFTER PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION CITY HOSPITAL DOCTORS ADVISED POLICE OFFICIAL AND CONSULAR OFFICER THAT MS. SO STILL APPEARED TO BE SERIOUSLY DISTURBED AND THAT ADMISSION TO THE HOSPITAL HAD BEEN SUGGESTED TO HER. HOWEVER, SHE

REJECTED THE IDEA OF ENTERING ANOTHER MEDICAL FACILITY. THE DOCTORS EXPLAINED THAT SHE COULD NOT BE FORCEABLY ADMITTED AGAINST HER WILL UNLESS COURT ORDER ISSUED. BOTH POLICE AND CONSULAR OFFICER TRIED TO PERSUADE MS. SO TO AT LEAST ENTER HOSPITAL FOR FURTHER EVALUATION AND EXPLANATION OF HER PROBLEM; SHE EMPHATICALLY REFUSED ADMISSION. DOCTORS PRESCRIBED MEDICATION FOR MS. SO (AT NO EXPENSE TO HER) AND ASKED HER TO RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER 7 DAYS FOR OBSERVATION. MS. SO INITIALLY REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL, BUT FINALLY AGREED TO ACCEPT THE MEDICATION PROVIDED SHE DID NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR IT.

4. MS. SO BECAME VERY UPSET WHILE WAITING FOR THE PRESCRIPTION TO BE FILLED. SHE BEGAN TO SHOUT AT PEOPLE IN THE HOSPITAL'S LOBBY AND THEN SETTLED DOWN TO TALK TO HERSELF. A DOCTOR WAS SUMMONED TO OBSERVE HER ACTIONS. DOCTOR AGAIN REITERATED THAT IT APPEARED THAT MS. SO REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL CARE, HOWEVER, WITHOUT HER CONSENT ADMISSION TO THE HOSPITAL COULD NOT BE EFFECTED. MS. SO FINALLY AGREED TO ACCEPT THE MEDICATION AND SHE HALF-HEARTEDLY AGREED TO RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER 7 DAYS FOR EVALUATION. DOCTOR ADVISED CONSULAR OFFICER TO ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH MS. SO IN AN EFFORT TO REMIND HER THAT SHE HAD PROBLEMS AND IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HER TO RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER TAKING THE MEDICATION. POLICE OFFICER INFORMED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DOCTOR THAT THEY (LOCAL POLICE) WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN MS. SO TO THE HOSPITAL SHOULD SHE SUFFER ANOTHER BREAKDOWN IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

5. CONSULAR OFFICE REPEATEDLY TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CONTACT MS. SO AS SUGGESTED BY DOCTOR AT CITY HOSPITAL. THE LANDLADY AT HER RESIDENCE STATED THAT EACH TIME SHE SPOKE TO MS. SO ADVISING HER TO CALL EMBASSY MS. SO BECAME VERY ABUSIVE. LANDLADY WAS THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO HOLD CONVERSATION WITH HER FOR FEAR OF INSTIGATING HOSTILE REACTION. PSYCHIATRIC CENTER INFORMED EMBASSY THAT MS. SO DID NOT RETURN FOR TREATMENT AS THEY HAD SUGGESTED.

6. MS. SO FINALLY TELEPHONED CONSULAR OFFICER ON 6/12/78. SHE REFUSED TO COME TO EMBASSY TO DISCUSS HER PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, SHE TALKED AT SOME LENGTH OVER THE TELEPHONE ABOUT HER SITUATION. SHE TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT SHE DID NOT RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL AND THAT SHE HAD STOPPED TAKING THE MEDICATION BECAUSE IT MADE HER ILL. SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS FEELING MUCH BETTER AND THEREFORE DID NOT FEEL THE NEED TO GO

BACK TO THE HOSPITAL. CONSULAR OFFICER FINALLY WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE HER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SETTLE THE OUTSTANDING BILL AT DR. WONG'S CLINIC (APPROXIMATELY U.S. DOLS 200.00). SHE FURTHER AGREED TO GO BACK TO THE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER ON 6/14/78 FOR OBSERVATION. SHE PROMISED TO REPORT BACK TO CONSULAR OFFICER WHEN SHE RETURNED FROM THE HOSPITAL. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SHE HAD CONSIDERED RETURNING TO THE U.S. MS. SO STATED THAT SHE HAD NO INTENTION OF GOING BACK TO THE U.S. RATHER,

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SHE PREFERRED TO REMAIN IN TAIWAN. SHE CLAIMED TO HAVE RESUMED TEACHING ENGLISH PRIVATELY TO VARIOUS STUDENTS AS WELL AS PART-TIME TEACHING AT THE LOCAL YWCA(SHE FORMERLY TAUGHT THERE BEFORE HER BREAKDOWN). CONSULAR OFFICER INFORMED HER THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO LOCATE HER HUSBAND AND PARENTS IN THE U.S. AND THAT HER BROTHER IN HONG KONG HAD IN FACT BEEN CONTACTED. SHE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S HELP BUT SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT NO FURTHER INFORMATION BE PROVIDED TO ANYONE CONCERNING HER PROBLEM.

7. EMBASSY RECENTLY SPOKE WITH DR. WONG CONCERNING HIS DIAGNOSIS OF MS. SO. IT IS HIS PROFESSIONAL OPINION THAT SHE IS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC SCHIZOPHRENIA AND SHOULD BE HOSPITALIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MORE DETAILED DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS IS UNAVAILABLE SINCE MS. SO SO FAR HAS STILL REFUSED TO SUBMIT TO AN EXAMINATION AT THE TAIPEI PSYCHIATRIC CENTER.

8. AS IT STANDS AT PRESENT IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF REPATRIATION CAN BE CONSIDERED. MS. SO SEEMS TO BE CAPABLE OF FINANCIALLY MAINTAINING HERSELF

AND HAS FIRMLY STATED THAT SHE DOES NOT CARE TO RETURN
TO THE U.S. HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT HER
MENTAL CONDITION IS UNSTABLE; THEREFORE THE POSSIBILITY
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EXISTS THAT SHE MAY BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE
FUTURE. DR. WONG FEELS THAT SHE MAY RETURN TO HONG KONG
AT ANY TIME. DR. WONG'S FEELING IS BASED ON EXTENSIVE
CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH MS. SO IN CANTONESE AND HER
REACTION TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS DURING TREATMENT AT HIS
CLINIC. HOWEVER, SHE TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT SHE
INTENDED TO APPLY FOR EXTENSION OF HER ROC VISA BECAUSE
SHE LIKED TAIWAN AND PREFERRED TO STAY AND WORK HERE.
SHOULD SHE SUFFER ANOTHER BREAKDOWN THE QUESTION OF
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, INCOMPETELNQSAND DEPORTATION WILL
THEN HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

9. EMBASSY WOULD STILL APPRECIATE KNOWING ADDRESS OF
NOK (PARENTS OR BROTHERS IN U.S.) IN EVENT FURTHER
PROBLEMS ARISE. FYI: MS. SO STATED THAT SHE HAS BEEN
SEPARATED FROM HER HUSBAND FOR SOME TIME, HAS NO IDEA OF
HIS WHEREABOUTS AND DOES NOT CARE TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
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